



# President's Message

Virginia O'Reilly



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year to all of you. We hope that 2004 will be a very suc-

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editor of five different weeklies, though not all at the same time, was a reporter for a Texas daily and a New Jersey weekly. Her plays have been performed at City Lights, at the Gaslighter Theatre and at another Friday Forum several years ago. Her output tends toward tongue-in-cheek riffs on the male/female quandary.

"I think playwrighting is the hardest writing of all, because it has to tell a compelling story with the music of poetry, the intimacy and revelation of a memoir and the conciseness of journalism. And if you can imbue it with transcendence, you've really created magic," Cook says.

The staged reading format is designed as a laboratory for new works, so critiques after the presentation are welcome, indeed encouraged, because seeing the work performed with actors on stage is part of the process of a play's evolution.

# president

cessful one for our library as we move forward in our expansion plans. To accomplish this, two of our major goals this year are to build membership and to increase giving. For this we need your help. In terms of membership, please take a few minutes to think of all your Los Gatos friends, neighbors and family, and then contact them about joining Friends of the Library.

Do mention that in addition to minimal dues, we welcome any

A senior in high-school, **Zach Miller** has only recently begun to write plays, yet feels right at home in the theater environment. Despite his serious personality and inability to tell a joke even if his life depended on it, he prefers to write comedy. Zach works in an Italian restaurant, bussing tables, and hates his job. He hopes to become a writer someday, because, "Frankly, I have no other choice. The profession would suit my reclusive, introverted, madman self."

New board member **Ann McClanahan** is coordinator of the February 27 theater evening.

**Friday, February 27, 7:00 p.m. Refreshments. 7:30 p.m. program. Los Gatos Town Council Chambers 110 East Main Street, Los Gatos. Friday Forums are free to the public.**

contributions. If anyone is in the process of selling their family home and moving into a smaller place and has an extensive collection of books, some of which may be very valuable, we have had great success in selling exceptional books through eBay. So please mention this wherever you think appropriate.

We look forward to seeing you at our Community Forums. If you would like to spend some time helping with Young Writers Workshops or other programs we'd love to have you.

# You can always help the Library

If anyone has copies of Los Gatos phone books for the years 1900-1950 and is willing to donate them to the Library, Director Peggy Conaway would be most appreciative. The directories make wonderful reference tools. The documents would be carefully handled, placed behind glass in the history case, since they are collector items. For example, Conaway paid \$40 for a 1951 book.

Donations of money to the History Project are always joyously received. Checks can be addressed thus:

Library Trust Fund, Digitized

# Recommendations

In a quandary about what book to give a favored child? The children's section can help. The staff has compiled favorite titles for all grade levels, including picture books for preschoolers.

Samples of picture book titles:

*How do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight?* by Jane Yolen

*Pete's a Pizza* by William Steig

*10 Minutes Till Bedtime* by Peggy Rathman.

Well known writers for grownups appear:

**Jules Feiffer**, *Bark, George*.

Los Gatos children's author **Joan Cottle**, commended for *Emily's Shoes* for K-1 readers.

Children's Website is <http://library.town.los-gatos.ca.us/kidsindex.html>

# children

# Children's Fall Programs

*Children's Programs are funded by Friends of the Library. Children's Library phone: 354-6891*

**February 12, 3:30 p.m.**

Storyteller, juggler, magician Bob Kahn invites you to laugh your head off.  
*Ages 5 and up*

**February 26, 3:30 p.m.**

Beads and jewelry making with Lisa Levine. *For older kids only, 12 & up. Meet at the Teen Zone.*

**March 11, 3:30 p.m.**

Magician Timothy James.  
*Ages 4 and up*

**March 18, 7 p.m.**

Family Night. Nick Barone Puppets present *Tales of the Enchanted Forest*.  
*Ages 4 and up*

# Morning Storytimes

Morning Storytimes are held each week at 10:30 a.m.

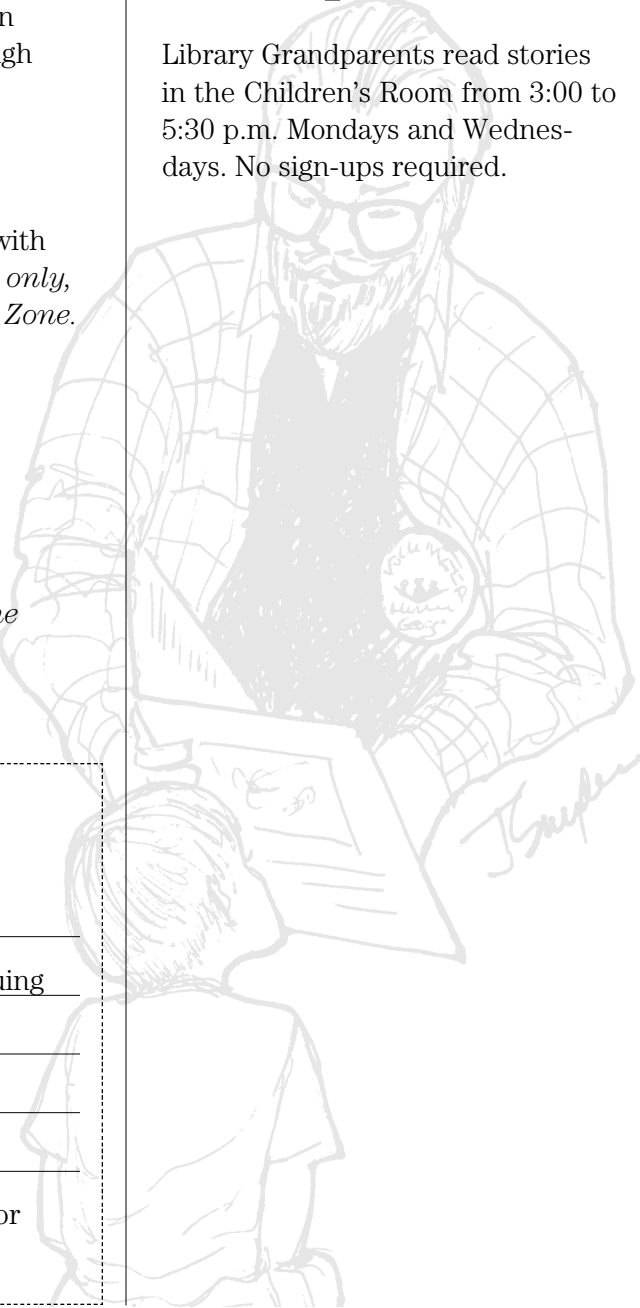
Mondays: 12-24 months

Tuesdays: pre-schoolers 3-5

Wednesdays: toddlers 2-3

# Reading with Grandparents

Library Grandparents read stories in the Children's Room from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. No sign-ups required.



# Young Writers Workshop Registration

Student's Name	Age	
Workshop Date	New	Continuing
Street/City/Zip	Phone	
Email		
Parent's Name		

A phone call, email or post card will confirm your registration. For more information call the Friends message line, 399-5700.

## New books in the Library

*Shirley Skellenger, Reference Supervisor*

### Fiction

#### ***The Five People You Meet in Heaven***

by Mitch Albom. Three stories about Eddie, an 83-year-old amusement-park maintenance man, from the author of *Tuesdays with Morrie*.

#### ***Pompeii: a Novel*** by Robert Harris.

As Vesuvius roils in the background, a young engineer uncovers hanky-panky with the aqueducts bringing water to the doomed city.

#### ***The Lady and the Unicorn***

by Tracy Chevalier. The author of *Girl with a Pearl Earring* re-creates the story behind other masterpieces, the unicorn tapestries, housed at the Cluny Museum in Paris.

### Non-Fiction

#### ***A Short History of Nearly Everything***

by Bill Bryson. Overcoming a lifetime aversion to science, Bryson, author of *In a Sunburned Country*, tackles human history.

#### ***Mountains Beyond Mountains***

by Tracy Kidder.

Moving account of the heroic work of Dr. Paul Farmer who travels the world caring for its poorest inhabitants. By the author of *The Soul of the New Machine*.

#### ***Inventing a Nation: Washington, Adams, Jefferson***

by Gore Vidal. An iconoclastic look at the beginnings of the nation, focusing on the personalities of the Founding Fathers. By the author of *Lincoln*.



# books

## Young Writers Workshops: Winter/Spring 2004

### ***Workshops offered***

***11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.***

***January 31, ages 9-12***

***March 27, ages 13-16***

***April 24, ages 9-12***

Friends of the Library board member and award-winning author **Martha Alderson** will again teach children and teens how to develop plot and characters to build compelling stories.

**Martha Alderson** teaches writing at U.C. Santa Cruz and leads work-

shops for the **East of Eden Writers Conference** and in her studio. She has taught at both **Jack London Writers** and **Kids Writing Camp, Writing Salon** in San Francisco and **California Writers Club** on the peninsula. For more about Martha, her website is

**[www.blockbusterplots.com](http://www.blockbusterplots.com).**

Registration is open for three Saturday workshops January 31, March 27 and April 24, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Los Gatos Neighborhood Center, 208 E. Main Street. The January and April workshops are for those 9-12; the March date is for teens 13-16. New and continuing students welcome.

Writing materials, drinks and cookies provided. Bring a lunch. Mail a completed registration form, and a check for \$15 payable to Friends of Los Gatos Library or FLGPL, 110 E. Main St., Los Gatos 95030 or drop off your registration and check at the library.



## Library Director's Corner

*Peggy Conaway*



The Los Gatos History Project continues to be an exciting venture at the library. A request to the community to

share historic photographs from personal collections has proved successful, and we have gained access to many wonderful primary materials and images. Among those who have participated so far are **Frank Burrell** and **Bruce Franks**, both from pioneering Santa Cruz Mountain families; **Bill Wulf**, town historian; **Egon Jensen**, former mayor; **Sara Morabito** from **The History Club**; and **Shirley Henderson** from **Antiquarium**. Others are **Duino Giordano** and **Mike Barbieri** from the police department, **Chris Miller** and the elementary school district, **Kathy Cusick** from **St. Mary's**, **Elayne Shore Shuman** and the **John Baggerly** collection. **Laura Bajuk** has given generous access to the museum's historic photos. **Bob Johnson** at the **King Library** and **Charlene Duval**,

# director

from the **Sourisseau Academy, SJSU** have provided rare Los Gatos images and other information.

In turn, the library provided historic images for the new **Trader Joe's** and for the **Montebello Terrace Homeowners**. PowerPoint presentations of historic photos have been given to the **Lions Club** and **Kiwanis** by staff.

**Rob and Diana Jensen** held a benefit for the History Project at the grand reopening of their tasting room at **Testarossa Vineyards** which netted about \$1,200, and was attended by hundreds.

Donations of \$1,000 have come from **Councilwoman Sandy Decker**, **Kenneth and Beverly Haughton** and the **History Club**, with many others contributing smaller amounts. **Dr. Robert Morris** from **IBM** and his son **Robbie** were responsible for a contribution of a **ThinkCentre** and Flat Panel Monitor, and the **Lions** purchased a scanner which accommodates our largest materials.

The History Project is off to a strong start. Some historic images

are currently posted on the website at **<http://library.town.los-gatos.ca.us>**. but that process is only in the beginning stages, with much to follow.

And other things are happening at the library too! Our second self-check machine will be installed in January, and we need your help. Volunteers are needed to greet and introduce patrons to the new Self-Service Workstations. Training will be provided, and it would be great if you could commit to two hours per week for 3-6 months. Using the self-check can be intimidating if you have never done it, but it's similar to using an ATM, not really that complicated and very convenient. Come and help introduce our patrons to this service. **Please contact Assistant Director Linda Dydo at 354-6897 if you are able to help us out.**

If you notice a new face at the reference desk, it probably belongs to **Marci Hunsaker**, a Los Gatos resident from SJSU who will intern at the library for spring semester. She comes to us through the FILL program, "From Interns to Library Leaders." We are happy to have her here.



## Book Sales

The book sale tables are now on shelves and have been relocated to the north wall (on the right as you enter from the side entrance) to make room for the new self check-out machine. This relocation could account for the significant drop in book sales for December, conjectures book sale maven **Marge Rice**.

It may take some time for buyers to adjust to the new setup.

**October** table sales brought in **\$2,033**, an all-time high, and **November** total was **\$1,797**. **December** sales drew **\$1,206**.

The special sale of **Better Books** in **November** produced **\$1,980**, the **January** sale total was a blockbuster **\$2,313**.

Sales to the **Santa Cruz Bookstore** brought in **\$288**.

### Dates for Special Book Sales for 2004 are:

**March 20**

**May 22**

**July 17**

**September 18**

**November 20**

**Book sales are held on Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the Town Council Lobby**



## A Friend indeed

### Gwen Davis

Mary Ann Cook

It's been a lifelong linkage—**Gwen Davis**, books and libraries. Recently her head could almost be spotted as she sat immersed in books nearly up to her shoulders in the library's flower room.

"I swear every mother in town cleaned out their children's books after Christmas," she says, and now she was inundated in the middle of all that literary cleanup.

The former library assistant is in charge of children's books for the book sale shelves, as well as the special sales every other month. Davis also processes new books for the library, so is found working in the library several times a week.

Budget cuts mean fewer new books to process, but other chores rear up. Earlier Davis served as a paid library assistant from 1960 to 1970. And she and her husband Jim were the ones in charge of the big yearly book sale held around the fountain. In 1989 the event had to be canceled: the sale date was two days after the earthquake.

Now widowed, Gwen continues as a library volunteer. She has three offspring—a hospice nurse, a teacher and an engineer—and four grandchildren. She helps out her teacher daughter one day a week in the Capitola classroom—and bakes cookies, so she's a very popular addition. "I've learned more in that 5th grade class than I ever could have imagined," she says with a laugh.

## Forever a Friend

You can forever be remembered as a lover of books and a friend of the library by naming Friends of Los Gatos Public Library in your will. Call the Friends message line for more information at 399-5700

# Preserving the past

**A t the Pageant:** One of the delights of living in Los Gatos in the first part of the 20th century was the Town Pageant. The pageant was held yearly one summer weekend evening behind the present site of the library. The pageants were written by local authors, such as Ruth Comfort Mitchell, Kathleen Norris and Owen / were based on actual local events. ☺ In the months preceding the show, money was collected from merchants and the amount amassed determined how elaborate that year production would be. All ages participated: auditions were held and oleos

were presented during the intermission.☺ Barbara Baggerly remembers well the pageant of 1940, because that's when she met her husband, John, longtime columnist of the *Weekly Times*, now deceased. The two starred in the story of a robbery at the tollgate which guarded the road to Santa Cruz. Prentice Brown, principal of the high school, played the tollgate master; Barbara played his daughter; and John played the Irish surveyor, who saved the

day in true hero fashion. There was even a waterfall spilling over the rocks lining the hillside. The area is elevated, a natural amphitheater, which is now a small park flanked with rhododendrons. ☺ The pageants were suspended during WW II days, revived in 1947, but dwindled away after that date. ☺

or lovers of local history lore, for researchers, students or anyone who has a question about the evolution of this town, the History Project now underway at the library is a godsend. ☺ Library staff and eager volunteers g hundreds of his-

toric photos, postcards and other memorabilia of Los Gatos history, circa 1860-1960, to preserve the past for the future. ☺ The results will be indexed and ultimately placed in the library website: <http://library.town.los-gatos.ca.us>. In addition, Arcadia Publishing will put the material in book form in fall of 2004 as part of their "Images of America" series. If you want to add to this fascinating project, Library Director Peggy Conaway would be glad to hear from you. Her number is 354-6895.☺



The first Pageant of Fulfillment, 1919.

## Friends Friday Forums

May 14, 2004

Mystery Writer Laurie King



Friends of the Library will feature esteemed mystery writer **Laurie R. King** at the **Friends Annual Meeting May 14**. Refreshments and a brief business meeting will precede King's talk at 7:30 p.m. in Town Council Chambers. **Martha Alderson**, herself a writer, will provide the questions for the interview program; Laurie King will provide the answers.

**Laurie R. King** burst onto the writing scene in 1993, winning the **Edgar** for **Best First Novel** with *A Grave Talent*. It was the first in a series of crime novels that feature Kate Martinelli, SFPD homicide inspector. From that auspicious beginning, King has gone on to develop another mystery series, involving Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes. A favorite title there is *The Moor*. Newest in the series is *Game*.

Popular titles in the Kate Martinelli series include *To Play the Fool*, *With Child* and *Night Work*. King has also written several non-series novels and short stories, such as *Folly* and *Keeping Watch*. More than 14 novels have been published under her name, appearing in 18 languages.

King wrote *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* in 1987, the first in the Mary Russell mystery series, although it was not published until 1994. She has averaged a book a year since she began writing.

The Mary Russell mystery series started with King thinking how much more interesting Sherlock Holmes might have been had he been confronted with a challenging woman. Hence, she created a young Mary Russell to stand beside the middle-aged Holmes to offer contrast and ignite sparks.

Note: **Laurie King's** *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* is the third book chosen for the **Town-Wide read April 5 - May 14**. Copies of the books, purchased by Friends of the Library, will be available at the library, at Los Gatos Coffee Roasting or Peets Coffee on Blossom Hill. Pick one up, read it, then bring it back so others can enjoy it too. Then meet the author in person on May 14.

